

C. 1880-1940

I. Agricultural Production

In 1884, near the beginning of this period, the State Board of Immigration published a survey of the opportunities for farmers immigrating to Delaware. New Castle County, the authors of Homes and Lands in Delaware declared,

was a progressive area noted for its corn, wheat, and hay. Dairying remained neglected in Kent, but more attention was being paid to fruit and vegetables there than to grain. "A score of years ago it was devoted to no other purpose. The crops obtained were small, the land being always in a semi-exhausted state. But it was easily cultivated, and when put into fruit-trees, strawberries, blackberries, raspberries, etc., and properly manured and tilled, an immediate and rapid improvement was the result. Farms that then produced only a few bushels of grain now yield tons of fruits; and instead of barely giving their owners a scanty subsistence (of hogs and hominy), now are yielding a gross income of thousands of dollars annually. Instead of a small unprofitable breed of cattle, Jerseys are kept for butter, and Shorthorns for beef. Land, instead of being worth from fifteen to thirty dollars per acre, is now worth from one hundred to two hundred dollars per acre." While improvements were visible in some parts of Kent, the pamphlet reported that "the lower part of Kent county...[is] still awaiting the magic touch that shall make the desert bloom as the rose." In the past most farmers in lower Delaware had planted only corn and wheat and used no fertilizers, but "now with the introduction of railroad facilities and rapid steamboat transportation, with large markets on every hand, and the wonderful skill attained in preserving almost all kinds of food for the human race, the owner of these lands finds before him a golden opportunity" (Hancock 1947: 87).

The story of whether the "desert" of lower Kent ever "bloomed as the rose," and indeed whether New Castle and northern Kent continued to bear fruit over the ensuing six decades, is written in the mass of data collected by federal and state census takers and by researchers from the University of Delaware Agricultural Experiment Station. Studies based on samples of individual farms such as those undertaken by Michel (1984, 1985), Mayer (1975), and Siders et al. (1991) for 1850-1880 have not yet appeared for this later period. Comparison of the 1830-1880 and 1880-1940 context narratives reveals the limitations aggregate data placed on this study. Nevertheless, the county statistical summaries published by the U. S. Bureau of the Census and the University of Delaware will support developing a basic context for agricultural production in New Castle and Kent counties between 1880 and 1940.

Recommendations for future research designed to remedy the biases and shortcomings inherent in this data appear at the end of this section. The discussion will focus first on farm numbers, sizes, types, and values, then on the production of field crops, livestock feed and fodder, vegetables, orchard products and other fruits, and livestock and animal products, and finally on the mechanization of the farm. Bausman's (1940, 1941) study of the state of agricultural production and land use in New Castle and Kent counties in the mid-1930s will conclude this first part of the historic context for agricultural production between 1880 and 1940.

In 1880, 2,061 farms in New Castle County encompassed 253,939 of the county's acres; in Kent County, 2,473 farms covered an area of 319,609 acres (Figures 13 and 14). Between 1880 and 1935 in New Castle County, the number of farms fluctuated between 1,839 and 2,208, the lowest number reached in 1930-1935. Over the same period, the acreage in farms declined steadily, to 206,854 by 1935. Bausman attributes this 18.5% decrease to farmland lost to development, private game preserves, public improvements, and most important, abandonment of "poorer grades of land for agricultural use" as a result of increasing farm wages and competition from better land (Bausman 1941: 7-8). The number of farms in Kent County fluctuated also over this period, peaking between 1910 and 1925, and then declining to 2,871 by 1935. In the latter year, however, the number of farms in the county still exceeded the number in 1880 by 398 farms. The county's farm acreage grew and decreased with the number of farms, so that by 1935 Kent's farms covered 293,682 acres (Bausman 1940: 10).

In both counties, farm size averaged just under 130 acres in 1880 (Table 12). One-half of New Castle's farms contained between 100 and 500 acres; in Kent, a slightly larger percentage, 55%, of the farms were of this size. New Castle's farms were more intensively used, with 84% of the farms' acreage improved, compared to only 72% in Kent. Almost 80% of Kent's unimproved farmland stood in forest, compared to less than two-thirds of New Castle's. At least in part as a result of the differences in improved acreage, New Castle's farms were valued almost twice that of Kent's in 1880. By the turn of the century, average farm size had declined in both counties, to about 120 acres (Table 13). This comparatively small decrease in average size masks the extent of the decline in the sizes of most farms, however. Fifty percent of New Castle's farms in 1900 and 55% of Kent County's contained between only 50 and 174 acres. Over the next decade, farm sizes decreased again, to an average of 106 acres in New Castle County and 107 acres in Kent (Table 14). In addition, in New Castle the number of farms containing fewer than 50 acres rose to over one-third in 1910, while those of 50-174 acres declined to only 45%. Nevertheless, farms in New Castle County were still valued at almost twice the value of Kent farms, and farmland cost an average of almost \$20 per acre more in New Castle County. Kent farmers, however, invested 10% more of the total value of their farms in

FIGURE 13

ACRES OF LAND IN FARMS, NEW CASTLE COUNTY 1850-1935
(Source: Bausman 1941: 7, Figure 1)

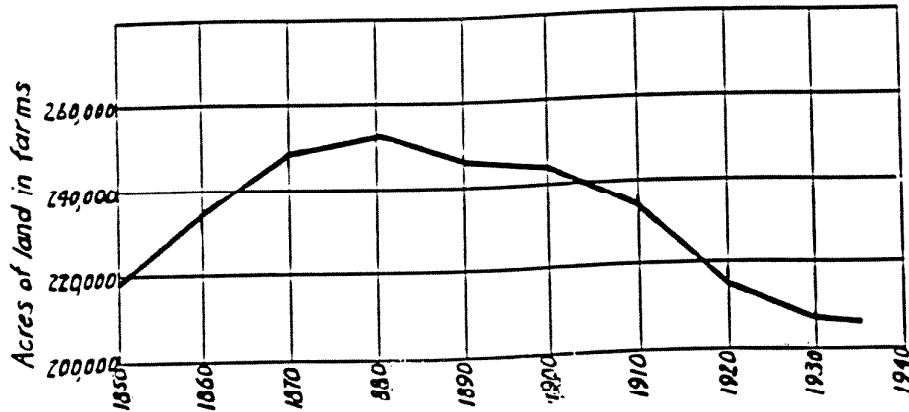


FIGURE 14

ACRES OF LAND IN FARMS, KENT COUNTY, 1850-1935
(Source: Bausman 1940: 10, Figure 1)

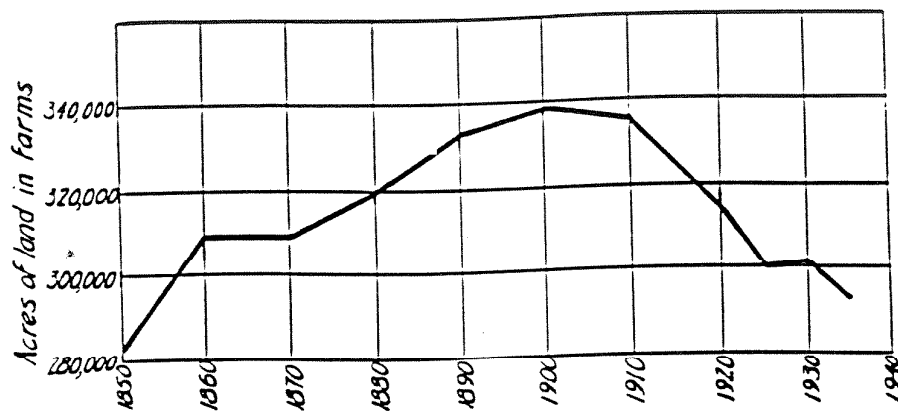


TABLE 12

NUMBER, SIZE, & VALUE OF FARMS, NEW CASTLE & KENT COUNTIES,
DELAWARE 1879-1880
(Source: U.S. Bureau of Census 1883: 36, 108)

Counties.	LAND IN FARMS.										NUMBER OF FARMS, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO ACREAGE, WITH AVERAGE SIZE.																	
	Farms.	(Grand total.	Improved.					Unimproved.					Value of farms, including land, fences, and buildings.	Value of farming implements and machinery.	Value of live stock on farms June 1, 1880.	Cost of building and repairing fences, 1879.	Cost of fertilizers purchased, 1879.	Estimated value of all farm productions (sold, consumed, or on hand) for 1879.	Total.									
			Total.	Tilled, including fallow and grass in rotation (whether pasture or meadow).	Permanently improved (orchards, vineyards, and vineyards).	Woodland and forest.	Other unimproved (old fields, not growing wood).	Total.	Under 3 acres.	3 and under 10.	10 and under 20.	20 and under 50.							50 and under 100.	100 and under 300.	300 and over.	Average size.						
The State.....	8,749	1,090,245	746,934	689,854	57,194	343,287	279,093	64,183	10,088,392	18,757,663	542,032	1,012,570	1,456,540	37,810	190,144	487,228	6,326,315	2,473	2,061	127	335	554	1,370	30	139			
Kent.....	473	319,009	231,216	208,794	22,422	88,393	69,060	19,333	10,088,392	18,757,663	644,369	1,456,540	1,456,540	106,511	177,644	177,644	2,596,344	2,061	2,061	110	161	264	451	10	123			
New Castle.....	12	253,939	212,403	193,494	18,911	41,534	29,410	15,121	18,757,663	18,757,663	644,369	1,456,540	1,456,540	106,511	177,644	177,644	2,596,344	2,061	2,061	110	161	264	451	10	123			

TABLE 13
NUMBER & SIZE OF FARMS, NEW CASTLE & KENT COUNTIES, DELAWARE 1900
(Source: U.S. Bureau of Census 1902: 66)

COUNTIES.	ALL FARMS.											
	Num- ber.	Aver- age size in acres.	Classified by acreage.									
			Under 3 acres.	3 and under 10 acres.	10 and under 20 acres.	20 and under 50 acres.	50 and under 100 acres.	100 and under 175 acres.	175 and under 250 acres.	250 and under 500 acres.	500 and under 1,000 acres.	1,000 acres and over.
The State..	9,687	110.1	38	292	547	1,568	2,610	2,923	1,133	500	71	5
Kent.....	2,814	120.2	17	88	165	394	663	885	410	158	31	3
Newcastle	2,088	117.3	14	105	130	325	477	564	292	166	14	1

TABLE 14
NUMBER, SIZE, & VALUE OF FARMS, NEW CASTLE AND KENT COUNTIES,
DELAWARE 1900, 1910
(Source: U.S. Bureau of Census 1913: 266)

	Total.	Kent.	New Castle.
Number of all farms.....	10,836	3,120	2,208
Number of all farms in 1900.....	9,687	2,814	2,083
Number of farms, classified by size:			
Under 3 acres.....	32	7	23
3 to 9 acres.....	672	188	230
10 to 19 acres.....	831	255	176
20 to 49 acres.....	1,988	478	340
50 to 99 acres.....	2,977	767	445
100 to 174 acres.....	2,849	884	545
175 to 259 acres.....	994	373	281
260 to 499 acres.....	435	139	153
500 to 999 acres.....	52	24	14
1,000 acres and over.....	6	5	1
LAND AND FARM AREA			
Approximate land area..... acres..	1,257,600	394,880	278,400
Land in farms..... acres.....	1,038,866	335,265	234,423
Land in farms in 1900..... acres..	1,066,228	338,205	241,623
Improved land in farms..... acres..	713,538	239,314	185,845
Improved land in farms in 1900..... acres..	754,010	244,282	197,102
Woodland in farms..... acres.....	252,032	68,598	27,949
Other unimproved land in farms..... acres..	73,296	27,353	20,729
Per cent of land area in farms.....	82.6	84.9	84.2
Per cent of farm land improved.....	68.7	71.4	79.3
Average acres per farm.....	95.9	107.5	106.2
Average improved acres per farm.....	65.8	76.7	84.2
VALUE OF FARM PROPERTY			
All farm property..... dollars..	63,179,201	18,668,662	24,474,316
All farm property in 1900..... dollars..	40,697,654	11,661,109	18,271,834
Per cent increase, 1900-1910.....	55.2	60.1	33.9
Land..... dollars.....	34,938,161	11,132,073	12,336,220
Land in 1900..... dollars.....	23,768,830	6,623,200	11,068,670
Buildings..... dollars.....	18,217,522	4,533,434	8,469,750
Buildings in 1900..... dollars.....	10,667,220	3,128,570	4,785,290
Implement and machinery..... dollars..	3,206,095	949,036	1,227,234
Implements, etc., in 1900..... dollars..	2,150,580	665,080	840,850
Domestic animals, poultry, and bees..... dollars..	6,817,123	2,034,119	2,441,112
Domestic animals, etc., in 1900..... dollars..	4,111,054	1,229,509	1,557,124
Per cent of value of all property in—			
Land.....	55.3	59.6	50.4
Buildings.....	28.8	24.4	34.6
Implements and machinery.....	5.1	5.1	5.0
Domestic animals, poultry, and bees.....	10.8	10.9	10.0
Average values:			
All property per farm..... dollars..	5,830	5,994	11,084
Land and buildings per farm..... dollars..	4,905	5,027	9,423
Land per acre..... dollars.....	33.63	33.20	52.62
Land per acre in 1900..... dollars..	22.29	19.60	45.29

land. In New Castle County, over one-third of the value of a farm was invested in its buildings; in Kent County the figure fell to one-quarter.

By 1920, the proportions of the counties' improved farm acreage had virtually equalized. Thus, between 1880 and 1920, the percentage of improved farm acreage in New Castle had decreased almost 10% from 84% to 75.2%, while in Kent it had remained almost constant (Table 15). New Castle farms were still valued at an average of almost \$5,200 higher than Kent farms, and farmland cost almost \$13 more per acre. New Castle farms on average were only 10 acres larger than Kent County farms, however. In 1930, on the eve of the Depression, 44% of New Castle farms still contained between 50 and 174 acres, and another one-third fewer than 50 acres (Table 16). In Kent, 54% of the farms consisted of 50-174 acres, and another 30% were smaller.

The census takers' categorization of the counties' farms into types in 1930 provides further insight into the state of agriculture at that date. Farms were classified as either General, Cash-grain, Crop-specialty, Fruit, Truck, Dairy, Animal-specialty, Poultry, Self-sufficing, Abnormal, or Unclassified (Table 17). In New Castle County that year, just under 10% of the farms were unclassified. Of the remaining, census takers categorized 30% as General Farms, almost one-quarter as Dairy Farms, 10% as Cash Farms-Grains, and 8% as Self-sufficient Farms. With the exception of the Abnormal farms, all other types accounted for fewer than 8% of the county's farms. Only 154 Kent farms were listed as unclassified. Of the others, census takers considered 45% General Farms, and counted smaller numbers of Poultry (12%), Fruit (8%), Dairy (7%), Self-sufficient (7%), Cash-grain (6.5%), and Truck (6%) farms. Kent's farms thus remained more diverse than New Castle's; at the same time, by this date 40% of the county's farms, in addition to the 45% of General farms, focused on production of perishable food products for urban markets. In fact, Kent contained 1% fewer self-sufficient, or subsistence, farms than New Castle.

The census data indicate that several features distinguished these different farm types (Tables 17 and 18). In New Castle County, Cash-grain and Animal-specialty farms averaged respectively 100 and 93 acres larger than the average for the county as a whole. Crop-specialty, Truck, Poultry, and Self-sufficient farms, on the other hand, were much smaller than the average county farm. In Kent, in comparison, Cash-grain, Crop-specialty, and Dairy farms were largest, averaging respectively 84, 61, and 53 acres larger than the county's average. As in New Castle, Truck, Poultry, and Self-sufficient farms were the county's smallest. The majority of New Castle's General Farms, Dairy Farms, and Cash-grain Farms contained between 50 and 259 acres, while most Crop-specialty farmers owned only 3 to 9 acres, Truck farms contained generally 3 to 49 acres, and Poultry and Self-sufficient farms consisted of

TABLE 15
NUMBER, SIZE, & VALUE OF FARMS, NEW CASTLE AND KENT COUNTIES,
DELAWARE 1900, 1910, 1920
 (Source: U.S. Bureau of Census 1922: 106)

	Total	Kent.	New Castle.
ALL FARMS.			
Number of farms..1920.....	10,140	2,911	1,825
.....1910.....	10,836	3,120	2,208
.....1900.....	9,687	2,814	2,068
All farms classified by size, 1920:			
Under 3 acres.....number.....	22	7	14
3 to 9 acres.....number.....	481	90	120
10 to 19 acres.....number.....	723	198	128
20 to 49 acres.....number.....	2,182	508	281
50 to 99 acres.....number.....	2,952	732	367
100 to 174 acres.....number.....	2,510	889	499
175 to 259 acres.....number.....	853	349	255
260 to 499 acres.....number.....	245	120	146
500 to 999 acres.....number.....	47	21	13
1,000 acres and over.....number.....	5	1	2
LAND AND FARM AREA.			
Approximate land area, 1920.....acres.....	1,257,000	394,880	278,400
Land in farms..1920.....acres.....	944,511	315,141	215,857
.....1910.....acres.....	1,038,866	335,265	234,422
.....1900.....acres.....	1,066,228	338,205	244,822
Improved land in farms..1920.....acres.....	682,052	229,488	162,375
.....1910.....acres.....	712,535	239,314	185,845
.....1900.....acres.....	754,010	244,382	197,102
Woodland in farms..1920.....acres.....	222,658	65,839	27,180
Other unimproved land in farms, 1920.....acres.....	68,801	24,816	28,415
Percent of land area in farms, 1920.....	78.1	78.8	77.5
Percent of farm land improved, 1920.....	69.1	71.2	78.2
Average acreage per farm, 1920.....	92.1	108.2	118.2
Average improved acreage per farm, 1920.....	64.4	77.1	88.9
VALUE OF FARM PROPERTY.			
All farm property..1920.....dollars.....	\$2,137,614	\$7,163,951	\$6,449,800
.....1910.....dollars.....	\$2,179,203	\$7,088,682	\$6,474,316
.....1900.....dollars.....	\$2,607,664	\$7,681,109	\$7,271,534
Land in farms..1920.....dollars.....	\$2,115,892	\$7,439,210	\$6,316,289
.....1910.....dollars.....	\$2,838,161	\$7,132,073	\$6,336,220
.....1900.....dollars.....	\$2,768,820	\$7,628,200	\$7,088,570
Farm buildings..1920.....dollars.....	\$22,639,829	\$6,758,497	\$7,989,600
.....1910.....dollars.....	\$18,217,822	\$4,653,434	\$4,489,750
.....1900.....dollars.....	\$10,667,220	\$2,128,370	\$4,785,290
Implements and machinery..1920.....dollars.....	\$6,781,315	\$2,185,343	\$2,123,738
.....1910.....dollars.....	\$3,206,086	\$989,036	\$1,227,234
.....1900.....dollars.....	\$2,150,560	\$685,030	\$840,850
Live stock on farms..1920.....dollars.....	\$8,600,665	\$2,760,911	\$3,040,225
.....1910.....dollars.....	\$6,817,123	\$2,084,119	\$2,443,112
.....1900.....dollars.....	\$4,111,054	\$1,228,509	\$1,557,124

NUMBER, AND SIZE OF FARMS, NEW CASTLE AND KENT COUNTIES,
DELAWARE 1929-1930
(Source: U.S. Bureau of Census 1932: 120)

ITEM		THE STATE	Kent	New Castle
FARMS AND FARM ACREAGE, BY SIZE				
Farms, by size:				
1	Under 3 acres.....	1930..... number..... 39	4	13
2		1929..... number..... 8	2	1
3		1928..... number..... 22	2	14
4	3 to 9 acres.....	1930..... number..... 588	143	174
5		1929..... number..... 688	177	206
6		1928..... number..... 481	90	120
7	10 to 19 acres.....	1930..... number..... 722	224	142
8		1929..... number..... 843	219	168
9		1928..... number..... 723	198	128
10	20 to 49 acres.....	1930..... number..... 2,062	808	287
11		1929..... number..... 2,209	880	308
12		1928..... number..... 2,182	509	281
13	50 to 99 acres.....	1930..... number..... 2,818	744	363
14		1929..... number..... 2,909	758	382
15		1928..... number..... 2,932	782	367
16	100 to 174 acres.....	1930..... number..... 2,306	794	453
17		1929..... number..... 2,368	859	537
18		1928..... number..... 2,510	869	499
19	175 to 239 acres.....	1930..... number..... 776	305	283
20		1929..... number..... 786	330	215
21		1928..... number..... 863	349	255
22	240 to 499 acres.....	1930..... number..... 371	126	139
23		1929..... number..... 300	96	115
24		1928..... number..... 255	120	146
25	500 to 999 acres.....	1930..... number..... 51	23	13
26		1929..... number..... 52	21	13
27		1928..... number..... 47	21	13
28	1,000 acres and over.....	1930..... number..... 8	8	2
29		1929..... number..... 4	1	2
30		1928..... number..... 5	1	2
All land in farms, by size of farm:				
31	Under 3 acres.....	1930..... acres..... 63	7	23
32		1929..... acres..... 9	3	2
33		1928..... acres..... 30	3	15
34	3 to 9 acres.....	1930..... acres..... 1,236	530	944
35		1929..... acres..... 1,968	1,021	1,180
36		1928..... acres..... 1,673	686	728
37	10 to 19 acres.....	1930..... acres..... 9,811	2,974	1,890
38		1929..... acres..... 11,365	2,930	2,175
39		1928..... acres..... 10,203	2,679	2,003
40	20 to 49 acres.....	1930..... acres..... 66,525	17,046	9,200
41		1929..... acres..... 78,864	18,880	10,025
42		1928..... acres..... 74,064	17,456	9,562
43	50 to 99 acres.....	1930..... acres..... 199,861	54,685	28,295
44		1929..... acres..... 204,873	54,090	27,772
45		1928..... acres..... 208,105	54,665	27,014
46	100 to 174 acres.....	1930..... acres..... 294,536	102,715	59,419
47		1929..... acres..... 302,840	111,562	71,944
48		1928..... acres..... 320,845	113,809	66,892
49	175 to 239 acres.....	1930..... acres..... 160,070	62,167	32,886
50		1929..... acres..... 161,806	66,914	49,060
51		1928..... acres..... 178,179	71,962	53,260
52	240 to 499 acres.....	1930..... acres..... 122,067	41,321	45,788
53		1929..... acres..... 97,410	31,162	36,878
54		1928..... acres..... 114,707	38,585	46,596
55	500 to 999 acres.....	1930..... acres..... 31,812	14,501	7,826
56		1929..... acres..... 32,584	13,066	7,790
57		1928..... acres..... 29,337	13,275	7,787
58	1,000 acres and over.....	1930..... acres..... 9,794	5,750	3,044
59		1929..... acres..... 6,632	1,148	4,184
60		1928..... acres..... 5,568	1,148	2,000
Crop land harvested, by size of farm:				
61	Under 3 acres.....	1929..... acres..... 26	5	12
62		1928..... acres..... 5	3	1
63	3 to 9 acres.....	1929..... acres..... 1,725	462	453
64		1928..... acres..... 2,184	581	527
65	10 to 19 acres.....	1929..... acres..... 5,581	1,712	847
66		1928..... acres..... 7,097	2,360	978
67	20 to 49 acres.....	1929..... acres..... 37,191	9,723	3,460
68		1928..... acres..... 38,428	10,044	4,321
69	50 to 99 acres.....	1929..... acres..... 94,710	25,138	10,968
70		1928..... acres..... 91,496	25,664	12,838
71	100 to 174 acres.....	1929..... acres..... 133,393	49,233	29,107
72		1928..... acres..... 137,568	56,180	36,487
73	175 to 239 acres.....	1929..... acres..... 72,247	28,800	26,047
74		1928..... acres..... 73,315	33,941	28,629
75	240 to 499 acres.....	1929..... acres..... 48,753	17,699	22,042
76		1928..... acres..... 40,847	14,235	18,286
77	500 to 999 acres.....	1929..... acres..... 9,733	4,132	2,518
78		1928..... acres..... 8,851	3,464	2,108
79	1,000 acres and over.....	1929..... acres..... 2,230	1,090	776
80		1928..... acres..... 1,115	178	880

TABLE 1
NUMBER, SIZE, & VALUE OF FARMS, NEW CASTLE AND KENT COUNTIES,
DELAWARE 1929-1930
(Source: U.S. Bureau of Census 1932: 73)

ITEM AND TYPE OF FARM	THE STATE	Kent	New Castle
FARMS, BY TYPE, 1930			
All types.....	Number 9,707	Number 2,874	Number 1,839
General.....	2,950	1,219	506
Cash-grain.....	415	63	26
Crop-specialty.....	421	173	8
Fruit.....	561	223	74
Truck.....	867	155	7
Dairy.....	666	193	380
Animal-specialty.....	37	12	17
Poultry.....	1,997	324	99
Self-sufficing.....	676	192	137
Abnormal.....	630	164	270
Institution or country estate.....	45	3	41
Part-time.....	552	157	213
Boarding and lodging.....	11	3	2
Forest-product.....	15		
Horse farm, feed lot, or livestock dealer.....	7	1	4
Unclassified.....	487	154	162
FARM LAND, BY TYPE			
All land in farms, 1930:	Acres 930,815	Acres 302,006	Acres 207,323
All types.....	330,395	140,840	71,383
General.....	74,515	33,117	32,910
Cash-grain.....	42,479	10,471	1,042
Crop-specialty.....	52,032	22,403	672
Fruit.....	71,496	11,867	3,731
Truck.....	91,429	30,454	49,976
Dairy.....	6,033	1,343	3,528
Animal-specialty.....	118,698	19,902	4,717
Poultry.....	42,589	11,276	6,955
Self-sufficing.....			
Abnormal.....	30,808	7,132	16,405
Institution or country estate.....	9,322	743	8,579
Part-time.....	19,128	6,046	6,836
Boarding and lodging.....	399		399
Forest-product.....	1,568	263	
Horse farm, feed lot, or livestock dealer.....	591		591
Unclassified.....	40,371	13,181	15,706
Average acres per farm, 1930:	98	105	113
All types.....	112	116	141
General.....	180	189	206
Cash-grain.....	101	166	40
Crop-specialty.....	98	100	109
Fruit.....	82	77	50
Truck.....	127	188	132
Dairy.....	163	112	213
Animal-specialty.....	59	61	48
Poultry.....	63	49	51
Self-sufficing.....	49	44	61
Abnormal.....			
Crop land harvested, 1929:	407,609	137,001	94,230
All types.....	155,374	65,291	35,812
General.....	37,075	15,738	17,393
Cash-grain.....	20,747	4,280	467
Crop-specialty.....	33,555	16,019	458
Fruit.....	34,040	4,747	1,593
Truck.....	44,675	14,163	24,912
Dairy.....	2,402	747	1,346
Animal-specialty.....	48,894	7,258	1,910
Poultry.....	12,382	3,286	1,945
Self-sufficing.....			
Abnormal.....	8,590	2,060	4,551
Institution or country estate.....	3,520	541	2,979
Part-time.....	4,651	1,433	1,468
Boarding and lodging.....	63		63
Forest-product.....	415	88	
Horse farm, feed lot, or livestock dealer.....	41		41
Unclassified.....	9,885	3,412	3,843
Flowable pasture, 1929:	82,855	33,803	33,233
All types.....	94,606	17,909	11,311
General.....	9,618	4,123	5,011
Cash-grain.....	1,198	515	212
Crop-specialty.....	1,598	1,044	106
Fruit.....	3,255	1,258	460
Truck.....	14,176	5,025	8,178
Dairy.....	944	151	747
Animal-specialty.....	6,256	2,198	720
Poultry.....	3,398	1,499	937
Self-sufficing.....	4,124	604	3,316
Abnormal.....	3,732	1,385	2,237
Unclassified.....			
Other pasture (excl. woodland), 1929:	23,628	9,377	9,608
All types.....	10,000	5,340	2,831
General.....	2,715	1,615	1,048
Cash-grain.....	344	76	59
Crop-specialty.....	329	207	64
Fruit.....	982	440	57
Truck.....	4,019	622	2,972
Dairy.....	189		164
Animal-specialty.....	1,736	564	146
Poultry.....	679	112	351
Self-sufficing.....	1,299	178	1,080
Abnormal.....	1,184	223	836
Unclassified.....			

ITEM AND TYPE OF FARM	THE STATE	Kent	New Castle
Land and buildings:			
All types.....	Dollars 68,941,747	Dollars 17,470,375	Dollars 28,883,063
General.....	18,399,814	7,242,117	5,690,910
Cash-grain.....	4,161,950	1,475,700	2,359,550
Crop-specialty.....	2,302,935	465,600	363,100
Fruit.....	4,673,154	2,863,634	98,200
Truck.....	4,141,974	635,074	674,800
Dairy.....	8,280,902	1,515,060	6,070,092
Animal-specialty.....	438,200	96,700	291,500
Poultry.....	8,073,113	1,364,245	941,918
Self-sufficing.....	2,598,192	534,155	1,111,480
Abnormal.....	10,160,648	571,290	9,079,208
Institution or country estate.....	7,054,483	125,000	6,929,483
Part-time.....	2,884,215	435,790	1,975,975
Boarding and lodging.....	112,750		112,750
Forest-product.....	48,200	10,500	
Horse farm, feed lot, or livestock dealer.....	61,000		61,000
Unclassified.....	3,525,965	706,600	2,202,305
Land and buildings, per farm:			
All types.....	\$ 6.99	\$ 6.079	\$ 15.706
General.....	6.237	5.941	11.247
Cash-grain.....	10.029	8.433	14.747
Crop-specialty.....	5.470	7.390	13.965
Fruit.....	8.687	12.841	12.275
Truck.....	4.777	4.097	9.119
Dairy.....	12.404	7.850	15.974
Animal-specialty.....	11.843	8.038	17.147
Poultry.....	8.045	4.211	9.514
Self-sufficing.....	3.843	2.782	8.113
Abnormal.....	16.309	3.505	33.878
Land and buildings, per acre:			
All types.....	74	58	139
General.....	56	51	80
Cash-grain.....	56	45	72
Crop-specialty.....	54	44	348
Fruit.....	94	128	113
Truck.....	58	54	181
Dairy.....	90	50	121
Animal-specialty.....	73	72	80
Poultry.....	68	69	200
Self-sufficing.....	61	47	160
Abnormal.....	330	80	553
Farm buildings (including dwellings):			
All types.....	\$1,711,384	\$7,015,605	\$14,917,439
General.....	8,313,698	2,872,535	2,851,948
Cash-grain.....	1,670,740	505,050	1,007,840
Crop-specialty.....	968,875	139,900	268,875
Fruit.....	1,824,925	1,098,900	51,400
Truck.....	1,777,045	264,895	332,100
Dairy.....	4,122,695	629,350	3,157,745
Animal-specialty.....	208,700	38,700	143,000
Poultry.....	4,475,484	714,275	580,334
Self-sufficing.....	1,246,300	224,925	539,625
Abnormal.....	5,228,607	283,700	4,756,607
Institution or country estate.....	3,714,637	71,000	3,643,637
Part-time.....	1,533,020	207,900	1,032,270
Boarding and lodging.....	30,700		30,700
Forest-product.....	20,250	4,800	
Horse farm, feed lot, or livestock dealer.....	30,000		30,000
Unclassified.....	1,773,315	242,375	1,247,015
Farmers' dwellings:			
All types.....	17,370,189	\$,965,070	7,533,989
General.....	4,812,925	1,580,150	1,634,600
Cash-grain.....	914,723	273,025	548,850
Crop-specialty.....	517,600	78,000	87,300
Fruit.....	1,085,260	635,050	30,300
Truck.....	1,110,768	180,593	232,450
Dairy.....	2,031,825	352,650	1,607,075
Animal-specialty.....	110,600	23,300	71,100
Poultry.....	2,730,680	410,255	323,150
Self-sufficing.....	783,317	124,797	302,400
Abnormal.....	2,391,789	167,350	2,028,244
Institution or country estate.....	1,340,994	36,000	1,304,994
Part-time.....	999,675	128,650	684,850
Boarding and lodging.....	23,400		23,400
Forest-product.....	12,700	2,700	
Horse farm, feed lot, or livestock dealer.....	15,000		15,000
Unclassified.....	894,700	147,900	571,800
Implement and machinery:			
All types.....	7,283,130	2,233,338	2,018,374
General.....	2,403,571	950,296	588,605
Cash-grain.....	414,041	173,220	204,631
Crop-specialty.....	26,245	69,015	24,700
Fruit.....	634,915	362,210	13,350
Truck.....	469,129	63,884	46,340
Dairy.....	999,829	247,642	637,082
Animal-specialty.....	79,411	9,737	67,174
Poultry.....	1,221,220	171,588	92,652
Self-sufficing.....	233,116	52,404	83,860
Abnormal.....	322,182	58,065	191,491
Unclassified.....	220,519	55,295	116,509

TABLE 18
SIZE AND VALUE OF FARMS BY TYPE, NEW CASTLE AND KENT COUNTIES,
DELAWARE 1929-1930
 (Source: U.S. Bureau of Census 1932: 76)

TYPE AND SIZE		THE STATE	Kent	New Castle
		Number	Number	Number
General farms:				
1	Under 3 acres.....	1	25	12
2	3 to 9 acres.....	109	58	17
3	10 to 19 acres.....	441	142	54
4	20 to 49 acres.....	912	347	96
5	50 to 99 acres.....	943	441	168
6	100 to 174 acres.....	329	119	106
7	175 to 259 acres.....	153	54	50
8	260 to 499 acres.....	11	5	2
9	500 to 999 acres.....	1	1	
10	1,000 to 4,999 acres.....			
Cash-grain farms:				
11	Under 3 acres.....	2		2
12	3 to 9 acres.....	6		1
13	10 to 19 acres.....	25	4	4
14	20 to 49 acres.....	165	81	56
15	50 to 99 acres.....	112	49	54
16	100 to 174 acres.....	56	22	33
17	175 to 259 acres.....	10	6	1
18	260 to 499 acres.....	1		
19	500 to 999 acres.....			
20	1,000 to 4,999 acres.....			
Crop-specialty farms:				
21	Under 3 acres.....	13		10
22	3 to 9 acres.....	14	1	1
23	10 to 19 acres.....	92	19	7
24	20 to 49 acres.....	151	21	3
25	50 to 99 acres.....	111	11	4
26	100 to 174 acres.....	19	2	
27	175 to 259 acres.....	14	4	
28	260 to 499 acres.....	2	1	
29	500 to 999 acres.....	4	4	
30	1,000 to 4,999 acres.....			
Fruit farms:				
31	Under 3 acres.....	12	4	
32	3 to 9 acres.....	44	23	
33	10 to 19 acres.....	122	51	2
34	20 to 49 acres.....	199	60	3
35	50 to 99 acres.....	127	55	1
36	100 to 174 acres.....	31	16	2
37	175 to 259 acres.....	19	10	
38	260 to 499 acres.....	6	4	
39	500 to 999 acres.....			
Truck farms:				
40	Under 3 acres.....	42	13	16
41	3 to 9 acres.....	80	18	22
42	10 to 19 acres.....	208	40	18
43	20 to 49 acres.....	282	43	8
44	50 to 99 acres.....	186	28	7
45	100 to 174 acres.....	44	7	1
46	175 to 259 acres.....	20	6	1
47	260 to 499 acres.....	4		1
48	500 to 999 acres.....	1		
49	1,000 to 4,999 acres.....			
Dairy farms:				
50	Under 3 acres.....	3	1	2
51	3 to 9 acres.....	8	3	4
52	10 to 19 acres.....	55	12	34
53	20 to 49 acres.....	192	45	115
54	50 to 99 acres.....	240	68	137
55	100 to 174 acres.....	106	40	53
56	175 to 259 acres.....	5	19	34
57	260 to 499 acres.....	6	5	1
58	500 to 999 acres.....			
59	1,000 to 4,999 acres.....			
Animal-specialty farms:				
60	Under 3 acres.....	1		1
61	3 to 9 acres.....	2	1	
62	10 to 19 acres.....	13	6	3
63	20 to 49 acres.....	11	3	4
64	50 to 99 acres.....	3	1	4
65	100 to 174 acres.....	3	1	1
66	175 to 259 acres.....	2		2
67	260 to 499 acres.....			
68	500 to 999 acres.....			
69	1,000 to 4,999 acres.....			
Poultry farms:				
70	Under 3 acres.....	24	3	3
71	3 to 9 acres.....	174	27	14
72	10 to 19 acres.....	229	51	19
73	20 to 49 acres.....	628	94	35
74	50 to 99 acres.....	578	58	21
75	100 to 174 acres.....	289	35	11
76	175 to 259 acres.....	56	17	2
77	260 to 499 acres.....	16	4	
78	500 to 999 acres.....	3	1	
79	1,000 to 4,999 acres.....			
Self-sufficing farms:				
80	Under 3 acres.....	1		1
81	3 to 9 acres.....	49	16	18
82	10 to 19 acres.....	71	27	18
83	20 to 49 acres.....	210	63	43
84	50 to 99 acres.....	214	53	41
85	100 to 174 acres.....	100	24	11
86	175 to 259 acres.....	26	8	5
87	260 to 499 acres.....	4	1	
88	500 to 999 acres.....	1		
89	1,000 to 4,999 acres.....			

TYPE, BY VALUE OF PRODUCTS		THE STATE	Kent	New Castle
		Number	Number	Number
General farms:				
1	Under \$250.....	22	9	2
2	\$250-\$399.....	66	33	7
3	\$400-\$599.....	130	77	15
4	\$600-\$999.....	442	218	45
5	\$1,000-\$1,499.....	588	229	80
6	\$1,500-\$2,499.....	839	334	104
7	\$2,500-\$3,999.....	560	240	119
8	\$4,000-\$5,999.....	222	58	89
9	\$6,000-\$9,999.....	75	18	39
10	\$10,000 and over.....	16	3	6
Cash-grain farms:				
11	Under \$250.....	7		2
12	\$250-\$399.....	9	3	1
13	\$400-\$599.....	22	5	7
14	\$600-\$999.....	60	20	26
15	\$1,000-\$1,499.....	73	30	17
16	\$1,500-\$2,499.....	106	64	26
17	\$2,500-\$3,999.....	80	26	49
18	\$4,000-\$5,999.....	44	16	28
19	\$6,000 and over.....	14	1	13
Crop-specialty farms:				
20	Under \$400.....	6		1
21	\$400-\$599.....	41	3	1
22	\$600-\$999.....	73	9	5
23	\$1,000-\$1,499.....	127	20	3
24	\$1,500-\$2,499.....	77	11	1
25	\$2,500-\$3,999.....	41	6	1
26	\$4,000-\$5,999.....	23	4	7
27	\$6,000-\$9,999.....	18	2	8
28	\$10,000 and over.....			
Fruit farms:				
29	Under \$250.....	7	1	1
30	\$250-\$399.....	17	4	
31	\$400-\$599.....	21	20	
32	\$600-\$999.....	64	22	1
33	\$1,000-\$1,499.....	124	44	2
34	\$1,500-\$2,499.....	96	50	3
35	\$2,500-\$3,999.....	63	29	1
36	\$4,000-\$5,999.....	36	25	
37	\$6,000-\$9,999.....	24	15	
38	\$10,000-\$19,999.....	17	10	
39	\$20,000 and over.....			
Truck farms:				
40	Under \$250.....	14	6	1
41	\$250-\$399.....	36	14	1
42	\$400-\$599.....	88	32	5
43	\$600-\$999.....	171	41	15
44	\$1,000-\$1,499.....	191	24	19
45	\$1,500-\$2,499.....	203	25	16
46	\$2,500-\$3,999.....	114	11	13
47	\$4,000-\$5,999.....	27	1	3
48	\$6,000-\$9,999.....	15	1	
49	\$10,000 and over.....	8		1
Dairy farms:				
50	Under \$250.....	3	1	2
51	\$250-\$399.....	2	2	2
52	\$400-\$599.....	21	5	12
53	\$600-\$999.....	58	22	29
54	\$1,000-\$1,499.....	155	49	78
55	\$1,500-\$2,499.....	206	68	111
56	\$2,500-\$3,999.....	132	33	96
57	\$4,000-\$5,999.....	70	14	48
58	\$6,000-\$9,999.....	16	1	9
59	\$10,000-\$19,999.....	3		3
60	\$20,000 and over.....			
Animal-specialty farms:				
60	Under \$250.....	1		1
61	\$250-\$399.....	2		2
62	\$400-\$599.....	3	3	3
63	\$600-\$999.....	7	3	1
64	\$1,000-\$1,499.....	5	3	
65	\$1,500-\$2,499.....	4	4	
66	\$2,500-\$3,999.....	6	1	4
67	\$4,000-\$5,999.....	7	1	3
68	\$6,000-\$9,999.....	2		1
69	\$10,000-\$19,999.....			
Poultry farms:				
70	Under \$250.....	25	6	6
71	\$250-\$399.....	59	24	6
72	\$400-\$599.....	94	33	6
73	\$600-\$999.....	249	65	13
74	\$1,000-\$1,499.....	329	36	22
75	\$1,500-\$2,499.....	534	77	21
76	\$2,500-\$3,999.....	373	54	15
77	\$4,000-\$5,999.....	181	16	10
78	\$6,000-\$9,999.....	111	8	4
79	\$10,000-\$19,999.....	36	5	1
80	\$20,000 and over.....	6		
Self-sufficing farms:				
80	Under \$250.....	111	27	29
81	\$250-\$399.....	103	33	23
82	\$400-\$599.....	138	42	20
83	\$600-\$999.....	294	58	35
84	\$1,000-\$1,499.....	88	24	19
85	\$1,500-\$2,499.....	32	8	11

between 20 and 99 acres. Differences in size also distinguished farms of the same type in New Castle and Kent counties. In the central county, most Cash-grain farms contained 100 to 259 acres, most Dairy farmers held 50 to 259 acres, most General farmers held 50 to 174 acres, most Fruit farms consisted of 20 to 174 acres, and most Crop-specialty, Truck, Poultry, and Self-sufficient farmers required only 20 to 99 acres. Neither did the value of the produce of the different farm types always correlate with the farms' sizes. In New Castle, most General farms' produce in 1929 was valued between \$1,000 and \$6,000. Cash-grain farms, in comparison, were generally larger, but most produced farm goods valued within the same range. Most of the county's dairy farms, though on average smaller than General farms, produced between \$1,500 and \$6,000 in goods in 1929. Most Poultry farmers' products were valued between only \$1,000 and \$2,500 that year, and few of the Self-sufficient farmers produced goods worth more than \$1,500; more than three-quarters produced less than \$1,000 in goods at the beginning of the Great Depression. Kent County's General farms produced goods of lesser value than their cohorts in New Castle; most produced goods valued between \$600 and \$4,000 in 1929. A smaller percentage of Kent's Cash-grain farmers produced goods valued at more than \$4,000 as well. The county's most prosperous farmers were the Fruit farmers; almost 5% of them produced fruits valued at over \$20,000 in 1929, and over 80% produced fruit valued between \$1,000 and \$20,000. At the other end of the farm economic hierarchy, over 90% of the Truck and Poultry farms produced less than \$4,000 in goods in 1929, and over 95% of Kent's Self-sufficient farms yielded produce valued at less than \$1,500 that year.

In New Castle County, although General farms contained more of the county's farm acreage than any other farm type, Dairy farms in the county accounted for the most pasture, an average of 22 of the average Dairy farm's 132 acres. In Kent County, Fruit farmers used their land most intensively, harvesting an average of 72 of their average 100 acres, or almost three-quarters of the farm's acreage. As in New Castle, Dairy farmers maintained the most land in pasturage, however in Kent County, most of this was plowable pasture.

Despite the success of Kent County's Fruit farmers, by 1930 New Castle County's farms were valued an average of over \$9,500 more than Kent's farms (Table 19), an increase of 185% in a decade. Buildings remained the principal source of the differences in farm value, as New Castle County's farm buildings were valued more than twice the amount of Kent's. As a result of the Depression, farm values declined over the next decade, more so in Kent than in New Castle, however (Table 20). Thus in 1940, at the end of this study period, the average New Castle County farm was valued at \$15,589, 332% more than the average value of a farm in Kent County. That New Castle farms averaged only 11 acres larger than Kent farms in 1940 (121 acres compared to 109.5 acres) further highlights the differences in farm value between the two counties.

TABLE 19
NUMBER, SIZE, AND VALUE OF FARMS, NEW CASTLE AND
KENT COUNTIES, DELAWARE 1930

COUNTY AND MINOR CIVIL DIVISION	Number of farms April 1, 1930	ALL LAND IN FARMS, APRIL 1, 1930, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO USE IN 1929								SPECIFIED FARM VALUES, APRIL 1, 1930				
		All land in farms (acres)	Crop land			Pasture land			Wood- land not used for pasture (acres)	All other land in farms (acres)	Farm land and buildings (dollars)	All farm buildings (dollars)	Farmers' dwellings (dollars)	Farm imple- ments and ma- chinery (dollars)
			Crops harvested (acres)	Crop failure (acres)	Idle or fallow (acres)	Plow- able (acres)	Wood- land (acres)	All other (acres)						
THE STATE.....	9,707	900,815	407,609	8,503	88,147	82,855	18,070	23,628	187,628	86,375	66,941,747	31,711,364	17,370,169	7,285,130
Kent County.....	2,874	302,006	137,001	4,039	24,237	35,805	4,418	9,377	60,053	27,068	17,470,375	7,015,605	3,965,070	2,232,396
New Castle County...	1,839	297,323	94,230	1,366	16,135	32,233	2,616	9,606	21,406	27,794	28,883,063	14,917,489	7,333,969	2,016,374

TABLE 20
NUMBER, SIZE AND VALUE OF FARMS, NEW CASTLE AND KENT COUNTIES,
DELAWARE 1930-1940
 (Source: U.S. Bureau of Census 1942: 16)

ITEM	THE STATE	Kent	New Castle
FARMS, ACREAGE, AND LAND AREA			
Number of farms.....Apr. 1, 1930..	8,886	2,782	1,877
.....Jan. 1, 1935..	10,381	2,871	1,839
.....Apr. 1, 1940..	9,707	2,874	1,839
Approximate land area (see text).....acres.....1930..	1,385,020	380,800	278,880
.....1935..	70.7	75.9	68.0
.....1940..	686,807	300,381	188,888
All land in farms.....acres.....1930..	686,807	300,381	188,888
.....1935..	686,807	300,381	188,888
.....1940..	686,807	300,381	188,888
Average size of farm.....acres.....1930..	80.6	136.6	152.6
.....1935..	80.7	136.3	152.5
.....1940..	80.8	136.1	152.7
Farm land according to use.....farms reporting.....1930..	8,407	2,656	1,813
.....1935..	9,807	2,778	1,771
.....1940..	9,813	2,774	1,678
Cropland harvested.....acres.....1930..	378,448	138,747	82,879
.....1935..	388,722	137,009	81,102
.....1940..	407,008	137,001	84,230
Crop failure (see text).....farms reporting.....1930..	814	286	110
.....1935..	487	183	87
.....1940..	578	278	88
.....acres.....1930..	10,330	2,707	1,854
.....1935..	8,094	1,867	1,781
.....1940..	8,008	4,038	1,369
Cropland, idle or fallow (see text).....farms reporting.....1930..	4,618	1,304	807
.....1935..	5,480	1,601	717
.....1940..	9,806	1,001	654
.....acres.....1930..	98,788	21,228	18,820
.....1935..	109,838	28,180	18,203
.....1940..	88,187	24,227	18,133
Pleasant pasture.....farms reporting.....1930..	4,646	1,802	1,051
.....1935..	4,879	1,878	1,034
.....1940..	4,481	1,808	1,183
.....acres.....1930..	84,133	34,228	33,048
.....1935..	78,048	38,877	37,808
.....1940..	88,805	38,808	38,233
Woodland (see text).....farms reporting.....1930..	8,438	2,072	877
.....1935..	288,881	71,388	28,488
.....1940..	288,881	67,888	28,881
.....acres.....1930..	288,881	67,888	28,881
.....1935..	288,881	67,888	28,881
.....1940..	288,881	67,888	28,881
All other land (see text).....farms reporting.....1930..	8,118	2,408	1,487
.....1935..	188,888	38,888	31,788
.....1940..	188,888	34,878	41,318
.....acres.....1930..	130,008	38,408	37,332
.....1935..	8,441	2,847	1,315
.....1940..	388,881	130,808	84,813
.....acres.....1930..	388,881	130,808	81,883
.....1935..	388,881	130,808	81,883
.....1940..	418,113	141,088	88,888
Land available for crops (harvested, failure, idle or fallow, and pleasurable pasture).....farms reporting.....1930..	8,788	2,728	1,888
.....1935..	2	.....	1
Irrigated cropland harvested and/or irrigated pasture.....farms reporting.....1930..	2	.....	1
.....1935..	7	.....	.....
.....acres.....1930..	.....	.....	.....
Irrigated pasture.....farms reporting.....1930..	.....	.....	.....
.....acres.....1930..	.....	.....	.....
VALUES			
Value of farms (land and buildings).....dollars.....1930..	84,888,888	18,888,788	24,788,487
.....1935..	81,478,728	18,032,810	24,788,188
.....1940..	88,841,747	17,470,378	28,883,883
Value of buildings.....farms reporting.....1930..	8,888	2,720	1,570
.....1935..	9,888	2,888	1,773
.....dollars.....1930..	28,008,884	6,788,128	12,321,008
.....1935..	31,711,384	7,012,808	14,817,488
Average values:			
Land and buildings per farm.....dollars.....1930..	8,104	4,881	15,588
.....1935..	4,888	4,181	13,481
.....1940..	8,888	6,078	15,708
Farms of 30 acres and over.....dollars.....1930..	8,888	5,220	18,888
.....1935..	81.30	42.83	128.20
.....1940..	88.88	40.87	118.67
Land and buildings per acre.....dollars.....1930..	78.31	57.88	138.31
.....1935..	7,048	2,122	1,343
.....1940..	8,874	2,848	1,645
Value of implements and machinery.....farms reporting.....1930..	.....	.....	.....
.....1935..	.....	.....	.....
.....dollars.....1930..	5,748,228	1,888,430	1,748,137
.....1935..	7,388,130	2,238,388	2,018,374
SPECIFIED FARM MACHINERY AND FACILITIES, APRIL 1, 1940			
Automobiles on farms.....farms reporting.....	8,835	2,018	1,228
.....number.....	8,184	2,388	1,888
Year of latest model.....1930-1940.....farms reporting.....	3,381	888	640
.....1931-1935.....farms reporting.....	8,101	888	388
.....1936 and earlier.....farms reporting.....	1,388	438	178
Average.....year.....	1934	1934	1934
Motorcycles on farms.....farms reporting.....	2,318	588	847
.....number.....	2,587	887	738
Year of latest model.....1930-1940.....farms reporting.....	888	188	228
.....1931-1935.....farms reporting.....	588	188	188
.....1936 and earlier.....farms reporting.....	188	188	188
Average.....year.....	1933	1933	1933
Tractors on farms.....farms reporting.....	2,320	813	840
.....number.....	2,848	808	728
Year of latest model.....1930-1940.....farms reporting.....	1,183	338	307
.....1931-1935.....farms reporting.....	278	124	108
.....1936 and earlier.....farms reporting.....	888	243	184
Average.....year.....	1934	1933	1933
Electric distribution line within 1/2 mile of the farm dwelling.....farms reporting.....	8,088	1,841	1,138
Dwelling lighted by electricity.....farms reporting.....	3,888	848	884
Current from a power line.....farms reporting.....	3,848	810	873
Current from a home plant.....farms reporting.....	184	38	11
With power line within 1/2 mile.....farms reporting.....	88	23	3
Telephone on farms.....farms reporting.....	2,218	303	881
Kind of road (see text):			
Hard-surfaced.....farms reporting.....	3,844	972	1,138
Gravel, shell, shale, etc.....farms reporting.....	888	488	188
Improved dirt.....farms reporting.....	3,183	1,084	87
Unimproved dirt.....farms reporting.....	478	107	43

In conjunction with his study of agriculture and land use in New Castle and Kent counties in the late 1930s, Bausman charted the changes in production of the counties' major field crops between 1880 (or later depending on the availability of information) and 1935 (Bausman 1940: 15-19; Bausman 1941: 12-15). Between 1880 and 1930, the acreage New Castle County farmers devoted to corn declined by over 14,350 acres, or 40% (Figure 15). Over the next five years, New Castle farmers returned a small percentage of this acreage to corn. The years between the turn of the century and 1920 witnessed the peak in acreage planted in wheat in Delaware's northern county (Figure 16). In 1900, almost 46,500 acres were devoted to wheat cultivation. By 1935, this figure had dropped by 10,000 acres. Similarly, vegetable and potato production decreased from the turn of the century to 1930; in the early years of the Depression, the acreage devoted to these truck crops increased by almost 1,500 acres (Figure 17). New Castle farmers did not abandon all the land they had been planting in corn, wheat, and vegetables, however; rather, they replaced these crops over this period with alfalfa and other legumes used for hay (Figures 18 and 19). Maps plotting the distribution of the acreage devoted to these crops in New Castle in 1937 show that corn was grown in large plots mostly in a band across the central portion of the county, and to a lesser extent in southern New Castle. Wheat production was concentrated heavily in St. Georges Hundred, southern Pencader, northern Appoquinimink, and to a lesser extent in portions of Red Lion and New Castle hundreds. Farmers across the county kept small plots in truck crops, with the least appearing in the wheat belt and in the northeastern hundreds. The production of hay and the acreage in tillable pasture correlated closely with the wheat belt, with secondary concentrations in the southern end of the county and in the northern tier hundreds (especially in the case of acreage in hay) (Bausman 1941: 17-21).

Corn production in Kent County followed a path similar to that in New Castle between 1880 and 1935, decreasing in the first decade, then increasing at the turn of the century, decreasing steadily until 1920, and then dropping off sharply over the next decade (Figure 20). Overall, the acreage in corn declined by two-thirds over the period. Kent farmers began to decrease their acreage in wheat at the turn of the century, returning to it again only for a short period during World War I when a demand was present (Figure 21). Alfalfa and legumes for hay replaced corn and wheat on Kent farms over this period as in New Castle County (Figures 22, 23). Unlike New Castle, however, Kent farmers did not give up production of truck crops as readily. After a drop in production during the first decade of the century, Kent farmers increased production through the mid-1920s. They then decreased the acreage devoted to vegetables for market until the Depression; by 1935 production had exceeded its highest previous levels (Figure 24). Bausman mapped the acreage in corn, wheat, truck and cannery crops, hay, and tillable pasture in Kent in 1937 as he did for New Castle. Except for the eastern tidal marsh fringe of the county,

FIGURE 15

ACRES OF CORN, NEW CASTLE COUNTY, 1880-1935
(Source: Bausman 1941: 13, Figure 8)



FIGURE 16

ACRES OF WHEAT, NEW CASTLE COUNTY, 1880-1935
(Source: Bausman 1941: 13, Figure 9)

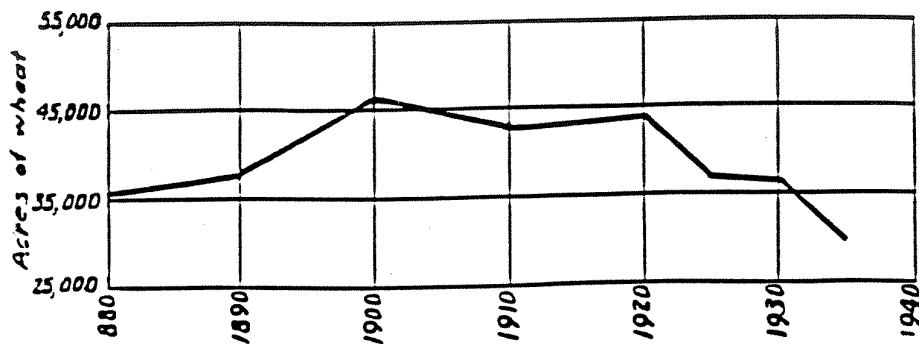


FIGURE 17

ACRES OF TRUCK CROPS, (VEGETABLES & POTATOES),
NEW CASTLE COUNTY, 1900-1935
(Source: Bausman 1941: 15, Figure 12)

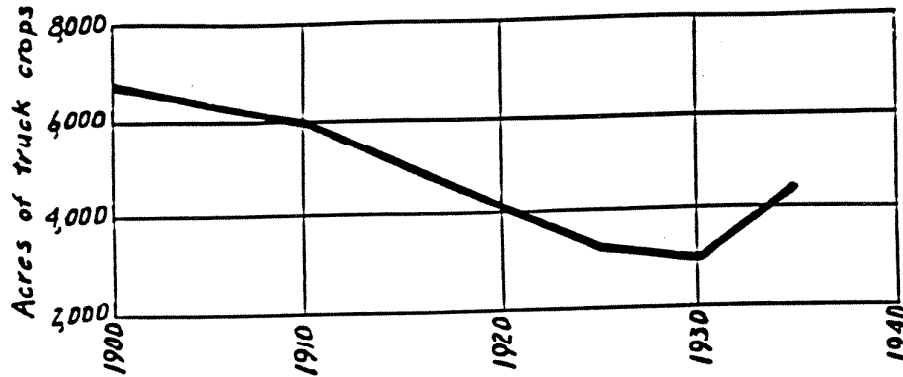


FIGURE 18

ACRES OF ALFALFA HAY, NEW CASTLE COUNTY, 1900-1935
(Source: Bausman 1941: 14, Figure 10)

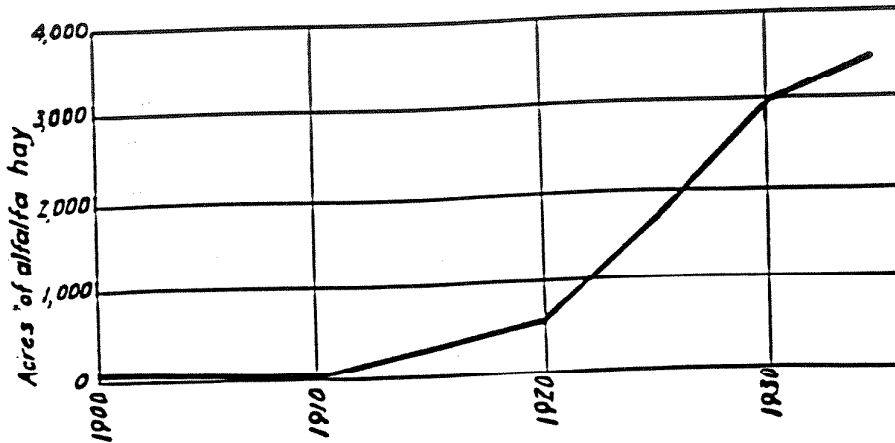


FIGURE 19

ACRES OF LEGUMES FOR HAY, NEW CASTLE COUNTY, 1920-1935
(Source: Bausman 1941: 14, Figure 11)

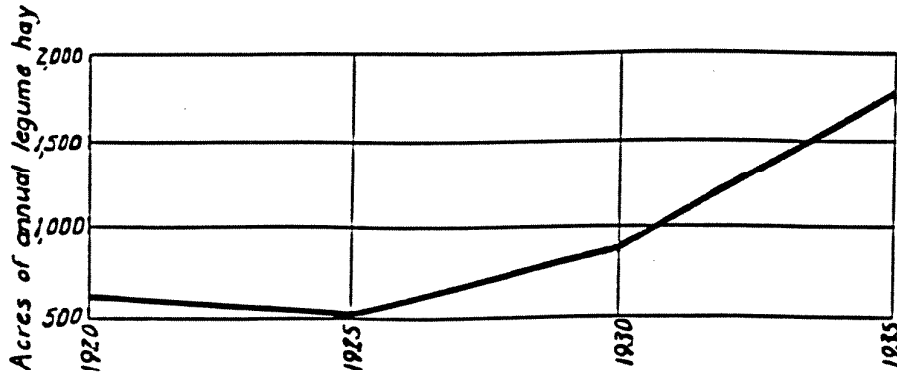


FIGURE 20

ACRES OF CORN, KENT COUNTY, 1880-1935
(Source: Bausman 1940: 16, Figure 8)

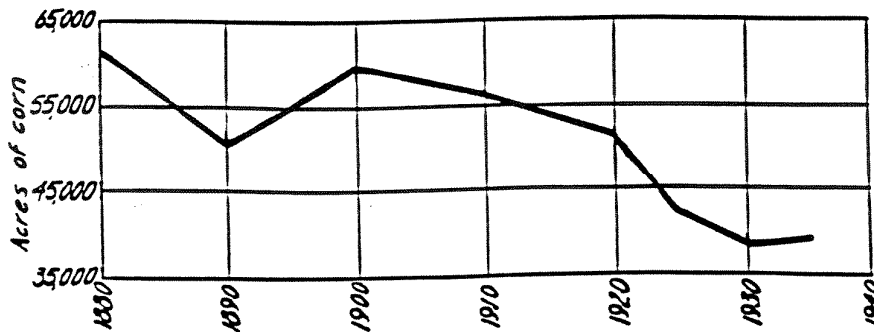


FIGURE 21

ACRES OF WHEAT, KENT COUNTY, 1880-1935
(Source: Bausman 1940: 16, Figure 9)

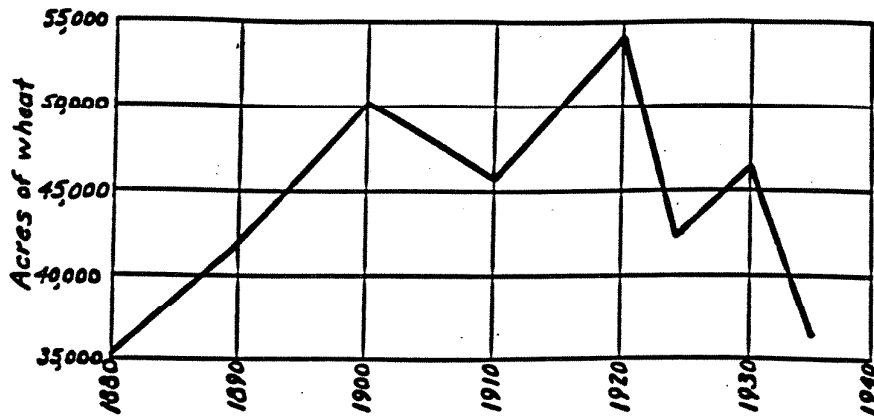


FIGURE 22

ACRES OF ALFALFA HAY, KENT COUNTY, 1900-1935
(Source: Bausman 1940: 17, Figure 10)

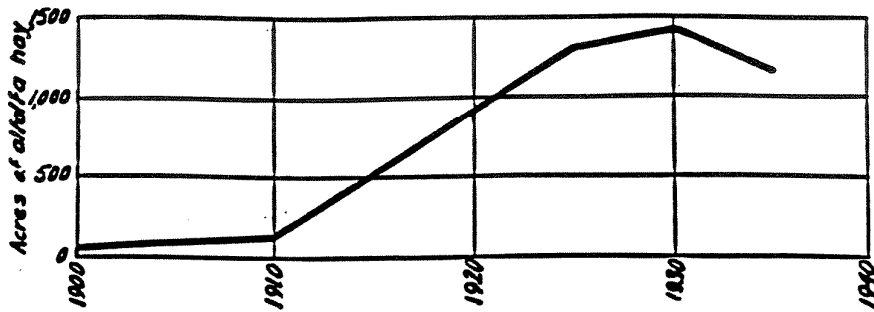


FIGURE 23

ACRES OF LEGUMES FOR HAY, KENT COUNTY 1920-1935
(Source: Bausman 1940: 18, Figure 11)

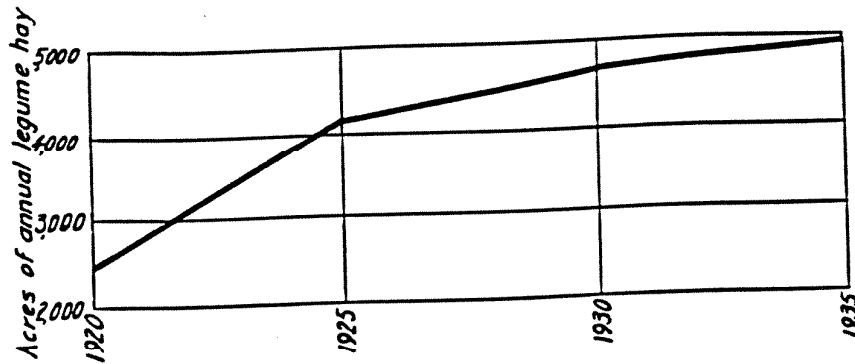
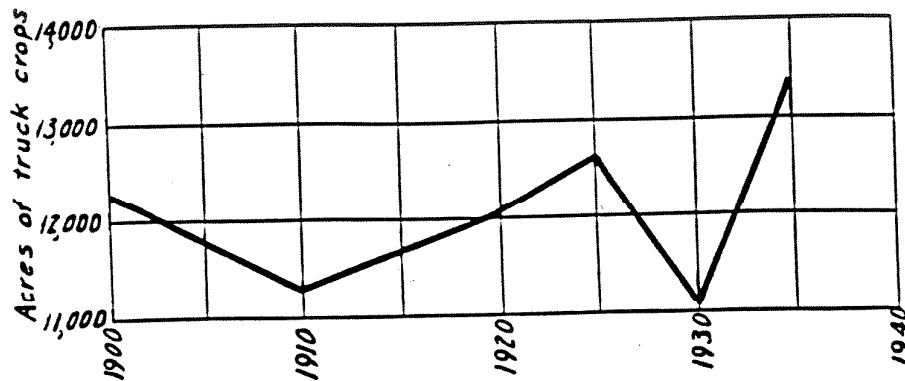


FIGURE 24

ACRES OF TRUCK CROPS (VEGETABLES & POTATOES),
KENT COUNTY, 1900-1935
(Source: Bausman 1940: 19, Figure 12)



farmers across Kent still devoted a considerable acreage to corn. Wheat too was produced across the county, with a somewhat greater concentration of acreage in wheat in the northern half of the county. Truck and Cannery crop production concentrated in south central Kent, especially in eastern Mispillion and western Milford hundreds. Hay and tillable pasture acreage appear across the county, with concentrations "in the northern and eastern parts of the county where the better grades of land are found" (Bausman 1940: 25; see 21-26 for maps).

Census takers recorded additional information on New Castle and Kent counties' agricultural production besides the acreage figures employed by Bausman. Annual production figures for corn, wheat, rye, oats, barley, buckwheat, potatoes, and hay for 1880 to 1886, for example, emphasize the variability in harvests from year to year despite general trends in production and acreage devoted to each crop (Table 21). During these years, Delaware farmers produced little or no barley, buckwheat, and tobacco. Corn still dominated the state's farms, but production varied from 1,507,800 bushels in 1886 to 3,233,920 in 1880. Wheat production peaked also in 1880, when the state's farmers harvested 1,736,253 bushels, and reached its nadir at 855,950 bushels four years later. Oats showed similar variability over this period. In 1880, the state's farmers raised only 118,913 bushels; three years later the figure was almost double, at 207,040 bushels.

The summary charts on New Castle and Kent county crop production published by the U. S. Census Bureau for the years 1880-1940 appear here as Tables 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, and 30. These data have formed the basis of an analysis of the counties' farmers' changing crop production strategies during this period (Tables 31, 32, and 33). Corn and wheat dominated both counties' production throughout the 60 year period (Table 32). Only in 1930, however, did New Castle farmers harvest more wheat than corn. Into the 1940s, Middletown remained the center of "the most important wheat growing area... Specialized wheat growing is still continued on some of the large tenanted farms..." (Baker 1947: 393). Through 1930, oats and potatoes were produced in the next greatest quantities. Beginning in 1890 in Kent County and during the next decade in New Castle, farmers raised more potatoes than oats. Sweet potatoes formed an especially important root crop in Kent County between 1900 and 1930. Other grains and pulse/legumes rounded out crop production. Beginning between 1920 and 1930 in Kent County, and the following decade in New Castle, soybeans account for an increasing proportion of the counties' crop production.

Although corn and wheat remained the counties' principal crops between 1880 and 1940, production varied from decade to decade (and from year to year--Table 21). The number of bushels of corn harvested in New Castle County increased through the turn of the century, then decreased steadily, by almost one-quarter of the crop

TABLE 21
DELAWARE FARMS: PRODUCTION OF CEREAL, POTATOES, HAY, AND TOBACCO
1880-1886
(Source: U.S. Bureau of Census 1887: 202-204)

Products.	Acreage.	Produc- tion.	Home value.
1880.	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Dollars.</i>	
Corn.....bush	202,120	6,467,840	3,223,920
Wheat.....do.	38,038	1,509,783	1,736,253
Rye.....do.	773	8,883	6,489
Oats.....do.	17,100	312,930	118,912
Barley.....do.			
Buckwheat.....do.			
Potatoes.....do.	4,400	308,000	175,560
Hay.....tons	32,099	26,642	488,348
Tobacco.....lbs.			
1881.			
Corn.....bush	204,100	2,940,000	1,764,000
Wheat.....do.	102,900	1,044,000	1,461,600
Rye.....do.	800	6,500	5,655
Oats.....do.	17,100	316,000	142,260
Barley.....do.			
Buckwheat.....do.	400	5,500	5,390
Potatoes.....do.	4,021	172,903	172,603
Hay.....tons	48,175	49,136	569,707
Tobacco.....lbs.			
1882.			
Corn.....bush	208,182	3,986,600	2,322,594
Wheat.....do.	98,800	1,200,600	1,284,612
Rye.....do.	816	7,620	4,564
Oats.....do.	21,033	410,800	184,660
Barley.....do.			
Buckwheat.....do.	408	6,325	3,793
Potatoes.....do.	4,001	253,935	205,754
Hay.....tons	48,655	49,627	707,166
Tobacco.....lbs.			
1883.			
Corn.....bush	212,346	3,822,200	1,911,100
Wheat.....do.	94,860	986,700	1,073,037
Rye.....do.	840	6,669	4,001
Oats.....do.	21,684	517,800	207,040
Barley.....do.			
Buckwheat.....do.	428	6,315	4,866
Potatoes.....do.	4,183	292,810	137,621
Hay.....tons	49,142	50,513	734,669
Tobacco.....lbs.			
1884.			
Corn.....bush	214,450	3,973,000	1,709,250
Wheat.....do.	94,790	1,007,000	855,950
Rye.....do.	857	7,000	4,550
Oats.....do.	20,580	482,000	168,700
Barley.....do.			
Buckwheat.....do.	437	7,000	3,850
Potatoes.....do.	4,141	236,000	132,160
Hay.....tons	48,655	48,655	681,170
Tobacco.....lbs.			
1885.			
Corn.....bush	216,595	4,174,000	1,669,600
Wheat.....do.	89,103	957,000	909,150
Rye.....do.	857	6,000	4,500
Oats.....do.	21,197	501,000	190,300
Barley.....do.			
Buckwheat.....do.	437	5,000	2,732
Potatoes.....do.	4,141	315,000	157,358
Hay.....tons	49,626	41,665	647,643
Tobacco.....lbs.			
1886.			
Corn.....bush	216,595	3,590,000	1,507,800
Wheat.....do.	94,790	1,177,000	988,800
Rye.....do.	857	6,000	3,600
Oats.....do.	21,405	492,000	172,200
Barley.....do.			
Buckwheat.....do.	437	6,000	3,420
Potatoes.....do.	4,182	272,000	136,000
Hay.....tons	48,635	50,025	612,806
Tobacco.....lbs.			

TABLE 22
CROP PRODUCTION, NEW CASTLE AND KENT COUNTIES, DELAWARE 1879
(Source: U.S. Bureau of Census 1883: 182, 261)

Counties.	BARLEY.		BUCKWHEAT.		INDIAN CORN.		OATS.		RYE.		WHEAT.	
	Acres.	Bushels.	Acres.	Bushels.	Acres.	Bushels.	Acres.	Bushels.	Acres.	Bushels.	Acres.	Bushels.
The State	10	523	397	5,157	202,120	3,894,164	17,158	378,548	773	5,953	57,530	1,175,273
Kent			317	5,072	60,135	1,299,185	4,682	65,924	528	2,809	35,375	446,942
New Castle	19	523	40	166	34,543	1,190,448	9,682	281,490	76	1,270	35,738	578,138

Counties.	POTATOES, 1879.			Value of orchard products of all kinds sold or consumed in 1879.		Value of market-garden products sold in 1879.		FOREST PRODUCTS.		WOOL, Spring clip of 1880.		Hops, 1879.		Broom-corn, 1879.		PULSE, 1879.	
	Acres.	Bushels.	Acres.	Dollars.	Dollars.	Dollars.	Dollars.	Amount of food crops raised in 1879.	Value of all food crops raised in 1879.	Number.	Weight.	Acres.	Pounds.	Pounds.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.
The State	283,804	2,472	195,937	848,092	100,675	103,890	274,885	103,890	274,885	21,907	97,946			7,318	1,380		
Kent	54,833	715	54,908	484,520	27,101	20,864	49,882	20,864	49,882	8,297	89,425			687	72		
New Castle	118,878	18	6,008	106,040	76,700	9,752	82,329	9,752	82,329	7,715	98,706			605	109		

TABLE 23

CROP PRODUCTION, NEW CASTLE AND KENT COUNTIES, DELAWARE
1889

(SOURCE: US BUREAU OF THE CENSUS 1896: 359, 425, 463)

COUNTIES.	BARLEY.		BUCKWHEAT.		INDIAN CORN.		OATS.		RYE.		WHEAT.	
	Acres.	Bushels.	Acres.	Bushels.	Acres.	Bushels.	Acres.	Bushels.	Acres.	Bushels.	Acres.	Bushels.
The State.....	12	205	325	8,081	174,796	8,067,164	19,374	382,900	775	6,625	94,368	1,501,050
Kent.....	3	65	179	1,850	50,507	965,839	4,350	67,954	408	3,868	41,066	635,320
Newcastle.....			1	6	33,012	1,200,324	11,066	270,771	52	427	38,322	668,875

COUNTIES.	HAY (ALL KINDS).			GRASS SEED.		TOBACCO.	
	Acres mown.		Tons harvested.	Clover. (Bushels.)	Other seed. (Bushels.)	Acres.	Pounds.
The State.....	76,199	105,231		315	1	20	29,680
Kent.....	24,633	30,703		82		(a)	70
Newcastle.....	56,262	84,181		2		20	29,600

COUNTIES.	PULSE.			BROOM CORN.		POTATOES.		
	Canada pease (dry). (Bushels.)	Cowpeas. (Bushels.)	Beans (dry). (Bushels.)	Acres.	Pounds.	Irish.		Sweet.
						Acres.	Bushels.	Acres.
The State.....	167	81	517	14	2,430	4,870	401,631	2,158
Kent.....	49	26	189	12	1,716	1,415	104,293	843
Newcastle.....	36	15	277			2,037	192,087	40
								202,914
								74,092
								5,181